AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-68. (Canceled)

69. (new) A conformational antibody, capable of specifically binding to an epitope constituted of each of the following sequences:

- amino acids 297 to 306 of HCV protein E1 (SEQ ID NO: 1);
- amino acids 480 to 494 of HCV protein E2 (SEQ ID NO: 2);
- amino acids 613 to 621 of HCV protein E2 (SEQ ID NO: 3),

capable of binding to the natural HCV viral envelope.

70. (new) The conformational antibody according to claim 69, capable of specifically binding to the natural HCV E2 protein.

71. (new) The conformational antibody according to claim 69, capable of neutralizing HCV infections in patients.

72. (new) The conformational antibody according to claim 69, capable of precipitating the HCV E1E2 complex under its covalent or non covalent forms.

73. (new) The conformational antibody according to claim 69, capable of specifically binding to the natural HCV E1 protein.

74. (new) The conformational antibody according to claim 69, capable of specifically binding to the natural HCV E1 protein, to the natural HCV E2 protein, and of precipitating the HCV E1E2 complex under its covalent or non covalent forms.

75. (new) The monoclonal antibody according to claim 69, secreted by the hybridoma deposited at the CNCM (Collection Nationale de Culture de Microorganismes, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France) on March 19, 2003, under accession number CNCM I-2983.

76. (new) The monoclonal antibody according to claim 69, secreted by the hybridoma deposited at the CNCM (Collection Nationale de Culture de Microorganismes, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France) on March 19, 2003, under accession number CNCM I-2982.

77. (new) A hybridoma deposited at the CNCM (Collection Nationale de Culture de Microorganismes, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France) on March 19, 2003, under accession number CNCM I-2983.

78. (new) A hybridoma deposited at the CNCM (Collection Nationale de Culture de Microorganismes, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France) on March 19, 2003, under accession number CNCM I-2982.

79. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active substance at least one of the antibodies of claim 69 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

80. (new) A process for preparing a monoclonal capable of specifically binding to the natural HCV viral envelope, comprising the following steps:

- immunizing an animal, in particular a mammal, with a composition comprising purified HCV enveloped complete viral particles, said purified HCV enveloped complete viral particles containing HCV RNA, HCV core protein and HCV envelope, and being liable to bind to any of the antibodies of claim 69, and recovering the generated antibodies;
- selecting, among the generated antibodies, monoclonal antibodies on their ability of binding to the HCV viral particles contained in the composition of HCV viral particles.

81. (new) A process for preparing a monoclonal antibody capable of specifically binding to the natural HCV viral envelope, comprising the following steps:

- immunizing an animal, in particular a mammal, with a composition comprising purified HCV enveloped complete viral particles, said purified HCV enveloped complete viral particles containing HCV RNA, HCV core protein and HCV envelope, and being liable to bind to any of the antibodies of claim 69, and recovering the generated antibodies;

- selecting, among the generated antibodies, monoclonal antibodies on their ability of binding to the purified HCV enveloped complete viral particles contained in the composition of purified HCV enveloped complete viral particles.